

Telepresence Breakout Group



Telecollaboration/videoconferencing

 Short-term (among awardees)

 Long-term

Telepresence model

NEES databank

 Obtaining metadata

 Obtaining experimental data

 Guaranteeing data quality

Value engineering

Awardee Communications

Recommended email strategy:

- Awardee email reflector with Web archive

- Cherri (NACSE) offered to set it up

- Real issue is getting people to use it

- Needs to become second nature to use this in sharing info with awardees

Telecollaboration/Videoconferencing

Recommended videoconferencing strategy:

Good value tools will be recommended (by Nestor?)

Desktop (e.g., ViaVideo) and conference room (e.g., Polycom)

Short/long-term tradeoffs will also be laid out

Single person will scope out prices nationally and report to all

All NEES PIs will install recommended system (or better) by April 15

Regular monthly conferences led by Tom will begin in May

For all awardee PIs (or their designees)

Future Telecollaboration

Telecollaboration will also require sharing presentations, whiteboards, etc.

SI and sites need to explore good solutions
SI should build the case for convincing universities to invest in Access Grid nodes or related strategy

Explore if NSF can endorse concept for NEES sites

Explore if NSF could pay for this to be in/near NEES labs

Need to remember that NEES users will be at the other end

Layered Approach to Telepresence

Started with Reno model, but found problems

Each item of equipment has differences in terms of who can operate

- Some must be operated by onsite staff

- Others can be operated from offsite, but only by single person

- Others can be operated by multiple offsite people

- Different schemes may apply at different points in the experiment

- And this may change over lifetime of NEES

Layered Approach to Telepresence

Suggest matrix for representing who can have access to what, and when

One table per item of equipment; number of time categories (columns) may vary by machine or site

	Setup	Experiment	Post
Offsite Control	Joe	---	Mary, Joe
Offsite Direction	---	Mary	---
Observation*	Joe	Everyone in world	Joe, Mary, Kim

*This is a separate issue from fact that machine may be shown in different contexts to different users

Other Aspects of Telepresence

Electronic Lab Notebooks

SI suggests possibility of re-using DOE's investment

Future meeting: sites need to determine if this meets NEES needs

Lab-to-lab collaboration

Email or videoconferencing aren't really enough

Need capability for spontaneous (unscheduled) communications, such as a shared breakroom

Obtaining NEES Metadata

Metadata will be essential - who defines it?

- Must be community-based

- Recommend that task force(s) be convened

Most mdata should be generated automatically during experiments

- Some mdata must be defined by PI

- Need tools/interfaces that make this easy

Incentive" approach to obtaining metadata from NEES researchers

- NEES sites require it before experiment can start

- Provide automatic experiment report generation capabilities

Obtaining NEES Experimental Data

Raw data originally passes through site, so site will retain it

Also initial processed (filtered) data

Quick-look (low resolution) data will be made available immediately

Can't lead to publication

High-resolution data will be made later

Available after PIs have a chance to publish

"Guaranteeing" Data Quality

NEES should establishing peer reviewing (data curation) process for interpreted data

Examples in other communities: Protein DataBank, GenBank

Work on convincing journals that they require/encourage data pass review as well as papers

Making it high prestige will

Encourage researchers to submit interpreted data

Enhance NEES visibility and standing

Cost of data curation

Should be considered part of operational expenses

Problem with Cooperative Agreements

Issue: value engineering

Tradeoffs between short-term savings on equipment vs. long-term savings on maintenance costs

Agreements provide disincentive for cost savings on equipment

Budget savings must be reported (and probably applied to network-related costs) when equipment purchase saves \$10,000+

Recommended approach:

PI can talk with NSF about investing it in some other aspect of equipment would significantly improve overall efficiency/quality of NEES